

**WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 24, 2013**

Present: Sondra Epstein, Pam Lewis, Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Andy & Jim Stout

Absent: Jean Forlano, Rob Gibbs

Acting Chairperson, Don Pote, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Meeting was held at the Watchung Public Library.

**\*\*Tree Report**

\*No tree report

\*Sondra questioned the House on Lakewood and number of trees removed. Pam previously did a site review of the property and had map of the trees. Pam will give Sondra a copy of the map. Sondra will review the map and current tree status with Arlene.

**\*\*Planning Board**

Subdivision 391 Valley Road

The planning board approved a subdivision of 391 Valley Road. There were no variances.

With the subdivision, the front of the houses would face Century Lane. The current house front faces Valley Drive. The developer wants to install new drainage system on Century which would require most if not all trees to be removed on Century. The developer was informed that the removal of trees must follow the tree ordinance and a tree application must be submitted for all trees to be removed. Karen recommended a site review of the property, wanted to see the trees prior to being removed and tree plan submitted. Karen and Pam made a plan to visit property over the weekend.

**\*\*Green Team**

\*No report

**\*\*Miscellaneous**

\*Tree Issues: After reviewing the site plan for Pinnacle flag lot subdivision at 50 & 56 Valley Drive, Pam observed that majority of trees removed were indigenous: Sassafras, Wild Cherries, Ashes, Dogwoods, Hickories, Basswoods, etc. Trees will be replaced with conifers such as white pine, blue spruce and Norway spruce along with red oaks and red maples. The indigenous trees provide valuable food for wildlife: birds, small mammals and pollinators. Currently there is no consideration for wildlife value replacement in tree ordinance. Pam spoke to Councilman Steve Black regarding this issue. He supports an ordinance that would require % of same species tree to be replaced when removed to stay consistent with our topography. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

\*April & May Minutes were not discussed, to be review at the next meeting. Don gave Karen his changes to April's.

**\*\*Correspondence**

None

Next meeting: Monday August 26, 7:30 PM at borough Hall. There is no July meeting. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted

Karen Pennett, Recording Secretary

Watchung Environmental Commission